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Report on
The State Central Administration for Statistics in East Germany
(Staatliche Zentralverwaltung fuer Statistik)

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The State Central Administration for Statistics in East Germany

(Stadtliche Zentralverwaltung fuer Statistik - StZfST)

This report on the GDR State Central Administration for Statistics was prepared in response to a request* for information on the organizational structure including background data, the identity and biographic sketches of key personnel and the general intelligence requirements that could be fulfilled by [REDACTED] of this East German Agency. 25X1C

I. Structure and Mission

The State Central Administration for Statistics (StZfST) is a semi-autonomous statistical unit consisting of approximately 500 employees, which is subordinate to the GDR State Planning Commission. 1/ It is the apex of the East German system of statistical economic reporting and has the primary function of providing the State Planning Commission and the Party with comprehensive information needed for the formulation of economic plans and the observation of their fulfillment. 2/ It is neither an executive agency within the government, nor is it concerned with any planning or with the implementation of plan directives. 3/ The Director, Heinz Rauch, is not one of the eight deputy chairmen of the State Planning Commission. There is no counterpart to the StZfST in the government of the United States.

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* Request from [REDACTED] Study of the GDR State Office for Statistics, 24 April 1956.

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The Structure of the StZfST is patterned after that of the State Planning Commission. 4/ It currently comprises ten major operating units or main administrations conforming to the major sectors into which the GDR economy is divided (See Chart). 5/ Whenever changes are made in the groupings of these economic sectors, corresponding changes appear in the main administrations of the StZfST. In addition to the ten main operating units, there are the customary administrative departments, such as personnel, training, general administration, and similar units. The StZfST, however, has in addition a machine tabulation unit -- the largest in East Germany -- which prepares reports and which serves also as a repository for operating statistics. 6/ The structure of the StZfST is given in the accompanying chart together with the names of the various department heads.

II. Functions and Responsibilities

The functions and responsibilities of the StZfST are limited to the collection, collation and recording of statistical data on all aspects of trade, industry, agriculture, transportation and population and health, with the exception of data on government finances which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance, and educational statistics which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education. 7/ The basic figures are received by teletype directly from the operating units, such as factories, banks, machine tractor stations, and other sources. Additional data, largely of a summary nature, are received

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through the Central Administration's regional offices (Bezirk's and Kreisstellen). 8/

Statistical reports are prepared from these basic figures, both on a routine and on an ad hoc basis. 9/ The routine reports--largely showing the progress of production--are prepared monthly by the 7th of the following month, quarterly by the 15th of the following month, and annually after all production records for the year have been received. The ad hoc reports, which seem to contribute to most of the work load, represent special reports for top administration and Party officials. Because of the heavy tabulation schedule, the machine tabulation unit is reported to be operating continuously on a 24-hour, 3-shift, basis. 10/

Background information on this statistical organ reveals no significant changes since its establishment at the time of the formation of the German Democratic Republic in 1949. It has always been a service unit. 11/ Originally it was known as the Central Statistical Bureau. 12/ In July 1952 when the GDR embarked on its program to speed up the socialization of the economy, the Bureau was renamed the State Central Administration for Statistics. 13/

The importance of statistics in the planning and fulfillment of national objectives was recognized early in the life of the German Democratic Republic and was the subject of a decree on 16 February 1950. 13a/ This decree provided for a centralized and uniform reporting system in order to insure an effective control over plan

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fulfillment. The training, selection, and disposition of statistical personnel in the GDR, as well as funds for the support of statistical work, ~~was~~ placed under the control of the statistical office, and the regional offices of the GDR were instructed to give their greatest possible support to this work. Beginning with the second quarter 1950, all budgets for statistical service were to ^{brought} be together and submitted as a summary total in the GDR budget.

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III. Main Administrations and Their Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the various main departments of the Central Administration for Statistics may be summarized as follows:

Main Administration I (Coordination) - responsible for coordination of operations within the Central Administration and for general statistical reporting on the GDR economy. This main administration authorizes and supervises statistical compilations (*Zusammenstellungen*) covering more than one economic field. Reports limited to a single field are usually prepared directly by one of the other main administrations responsible for the subject matter. The coordination function of this main administration includes, in addition, statistical techniques, forms, questionnaires, cross-sectional studies, and the publication of statistical data on the GDR economy for use within the GDR government. The monthly publication, *Statistische Praxis*, is also the responsibility of one of the units within this main administration.

Main Administration II (Industry and Handicraft) - responsible for the compilation of all industrial production data, including those of VEB's, cooperatives and private factories and shops. Recently this main department became responsible also for data dealing with capital investments, repair, and expansion of production facilities.

Main Administration III (Agriculture) - responsible for the compilation of all production data dealing with agriculture and forestry.

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Main Administration IV (Traffic) - responsible for the compilation of statistical data dealing with traffic in the GDR including railroads, ships, highways, urban and inter-urban transportation systems; as well as the communications systems such as postal, telephone, telegraph, and teletype.

Main Administration V (Investments) - This main department was dissolved in March 1955 and its responsibilities distributed to Main Administration II and Main Administration VII.

Main Administration VI (Manpower) - responsible for the compilation of all data dealing with the labor force.

Main Administration VII (Finances) - responsible for the compilation of financial data of factories and their wage scales. This administration also compiles data on living standards.

Main Administration VIII (Foreign Trade) - responsible for all compilations on imports and exports, including trade conducted with Western Germany and other non-Bloc areas.

Main Administration IX (Material Procurement) - responsible for the compilation of statistical information on the procurement of raw materials, and the available inventory of these materials at factories and in various stockpiles, including reserves. These records are concerned only with the actual rise and availability of materials, not with their planned allocation. Rather comprehensive reports are prepared monthly and semi-annually by this main admini-

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stration on printed forms which include the interchange and consumption of materials by firms. These reports are purely for operational purposes. It is reported that this main administration will be dissolved early in 1956 and that its records ~~will be~~ distributed to the appropriate remaining main administrations.

Main Administration X (Prices) - responsible for the compilation of prices, both wholesale and retail, of goods and materials involved in internal trade. It would appear, therefore, that this main administration is concerned chiefly with the compilation of statistics on the distribution of consumer goods within East Germany, the wholesale and retail prices of these goods, and the supply available for distribution.

Main Administration XII (Population, Culture, Health, and Social Matters) - responsible for the compilation of data on the health, growth, and welfare of the GDR population. Most of the reports prepared by this administration might be classified under the general category of medical statistics.

Statistical Technical Department (IBM Machine Tabulation) - responsible for all machine tabulations of statistical data. This installation, reported to be the largest in East Germany, functions also as a central records file. Its operations are very strictly controlled and no information is released, even when requested by a GDR minister, without the approval of the director of the Central

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Administration for Statistics. The equipment is rented from the American Office Machine Company in Munich and is reported to be old and badly in need of repair because of its continuous use by three shifts. To overcome the shortage of spare parts, the watch industry in East Germany has attempted to manufacture the required spare parts, and with some success. Parts for the IBM Tabulator (Sumen Raffer), however, have not been successfully produced because of the very close tolerances involved, amounting to 1/100 mm. These parts can only be obtained through the IBM Branch Office in Munich. The Hollerith cards were formerly purchased also from the Munich Office, but have been successfully produced in East Germany since 1953.

The responsibilities of the remaining departments such as personnel, training, general administration and typing pool, involve the customary housekeeping functions and require no further explanation.

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IV. Identity and Biographic Sketches of Key Personnel

Information on key personnel in the StZfST is submitted in Appendix I. Apparently, stricter security checks are made of personnel employed by the StZfST than for those working in other branches of the government. For example, the size of the T/O of the StZfST remained at about 600 employees for a number of years prior to the 1955 reorganization. 16/ At that time, the T/O was reduced to approximately 450-500 employees of which about 1/3 are confirmed Communists or SED members, a very high proportion. 17/ The reason for this reduction in force was ascribed to required savings in the cost of administration. It was noticed, however, that only non-Party members and those whose political affiliations might be suspected were released, such as the middle-aged or elderly persons. In addition, the Kampfgruppe of the StZfST was assigned the task of maintaining a two-man guard constantly over classified documents. 18/ This guard augmented the usual security guards maintained in all government buildings.

The list of key personnel in Appendix I is limited in this report, to the top administrative level. Much more information could be uncovered, particularly in the lower administrative brackets, if more research time could be devoted to the exploitation of sources not readily available. This would require a cardrun and scrutiny of many defector reports.

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V. Intelligence Requirements That Could Be Fulfilled By [REDACTED]
of the StZfST

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The reports prepared by the StZfST include production data on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. Summary totals are given by industry and by the responsible ministry. In addition, reports are prepared on the production of 36 basic commodities. Some of the production data are given in monetary units from which it should be possible to draw conclusions with reference to prices. Manpower data as well as average wage rates are also tabulated.

The quarterly and annual reports apparently show a comparison with the plan totals giving also the percentages of fulfillment. Some of this information has appeared in GDR publications in East Germany, but in these instances the record of plan fulfillment was presented only in percentage totals.

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[REDACTED] the GDR statistical agency therefore should produce considerable information periodically on production which should be useful in developing estimates of national income and gross national product, the growth of various economic sectors and the success of the regime in fulfilling its plan objectives. Some information would also become available, probably occasionally rather than periodically, which would provide intelligence on prices, wage rates, and manpower. The nature of the information would be somewhat

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comparable to that available in the US Census Bureau or the US Department of Commerce.

On the other hand, the information could not be expected to fulfill requirements concerned with policy decisions or the activities of the GDR planners.

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The unknown in this appraisal of the usefulness of the StZfST in the production of intelligence is the value of the ad hoc report. Apparently many of these reports are prepared by the StZfST in response to specific requests. No information, unfortunately, is available

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at present as to the nature or scope of these reports. They might prove to be a valuable source or they might be largely an interim report giving early information to the State Planning Commission. Since no information is available, no attempt is made to appraise the value of this source in the production of intelligence.

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Appendix II

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